

THE CONVICTS AND THE TREASURY.

The Montgomery Advertiser
For nearly twenty years, the so-called convict lease system has been a paramount issue at every session of the Alabama Legislature.

The present special session is no exception; the system of hiring out convicts again bobs up. It bobs up and demands immediate attention, with all the members of the Legislature believing that it had been finally settled when the alleged lease system was abolished at a previous session, the bill to take effect on January 1st.

What is the matter with that question? Why is it continually rising and defying any solution? Why, after it was disposed of and set aside as fully adjusted, does it again appear? Because sentimentalists and theorists have ignored and glossed over facts, made unconscious misstatements and deluded themselves with illusions. They abolished a lease system which never existed and because of reasons which had no foundations. They set out to help the best treated convicts of any State of the South and prepared to lose to the State from seven hundred thousand to a million dollars which the tax-payers would have to replace.

The convict lease system in the correct meaning of that term does not exist, because the convicts themselves never pass out of the care and guardianship of the State. The State contracts, with certain mine owners in competitive bidding to let those mine owners have the labor of convicts, while the State guarantees, guards them, cares for them and gives them medical treatment. At no time are the persons and liberty of the convict committed to the care of any person or company who has a selfish interest in what their labor may produce. The mine owner can get the benefit of their labor by paying the State for it, but he can not assume any sort of charge over them, as the representatives of the State are supreme in all that pertains to the convicts.

Now how are they treated? There has been a lot of inexcusable statements as to how the convicts are cared for and made to work in the mines. A lot of people with the best intentions in the world, have been made to believe that the convicts are overworked, that they are oppressed and abused. Such statements are not made to people who know how the hiring system is managed, and they are not made by people who have visited the barracks at the convict worked mines. They are not made to representatives of the State, who draw fixed salaries from the Convict De-

partment and are not concerned as to what the convicts earn. These men know better. For a long term of years, we know, after practical observation, that the Convict Department of Alabama has been managed in a humane and generous manner. Constant watchfulness is exercised to see that there are no individual cases of abuse between guards and foremen and convicts. The rules laid down by the Department are drawn in a broad and charitable spirit, and with the welfare of the convict kept in mind. Intelligent and capable representatives of the State government are constantly investigating the mines at which the convicts work.

Under the direction of the State, handsome, modern barracks have been erected at all these camps, and these barracks are under the continual supervision of the State. These barracks are as clean and sanitary as human ingenuity can make them. They are cleaner than the accommodations at mines worked by free labor. It is taken as a matter of course, for instance, that the bathing facilities should be equal to the best in the mining district. The food must be ample and the cooking good. The State has manifested a sense of its responsibility in its policy towards its convicted criminal class. It is not only particular in its supervision of the living quarters, the sanitary arrangements and the administration of medical care, but it rigidly supervises the hours and conditions of the convict's work. The usual daily "stint" of a convict working in the mines is done in eight hours. It is a daily sight at the mines to see them come to the surface as early as three-thirty, or four o'clock in the afternoon to bathe and rest or play, the remainder of the afternoon. These are facts, or they are not facts. They can be tested by any one who cares to take the trouble.

When the present Legislature at its first session decided on the abolition of the hiring system, the well intentioned theorists were arguing largely that the convicts be worked on the public roads. At that time any county could work convicts on the roads, if its authorities so decided. They had all the authority and all the law needed for sending convicts to the roads instead of the mine. A few of them tried the experiment, but only a few. These, with perhaps the exception of one or two counties, have abandoned the policy of working convicts on the roads in the daytime and making them sleep in the cages at night. Actual experience showed the policy to be inhumane as compared with the hiring system. Instead of comfortable barracks and secure and healthy shelter in time of storm and rain, the convicts on the

road had to take the weather in the open in the day-time and obtain a precarious shelter in a cage at night. Moreover, as might have been expected, escapes were far more numerous than under the old system.

The county officials discovered to their sorrow that, as Representative Long declared Wednesday, it cost three times as much to build good roads with convicts as with free labor. Every county in Alabama wants good roads, but many of them have learned by experience that they could not afford to pay the price of having them built by convicts. Any reader of The Advertiser's want and sale advertising column, could have picked up half a dozen good bargains in road building machinery and convict cages from counties which had tried the road working experiment and had enough of it, and was offering the equipment for sale.

But the Legislature decided to abolish the hiring system, and to answer the question, "What are you going to do with the convicts" by erecting a modern prison in which they could be given industrial employment. That large structure is now under way on the outskirts of Montgomery; it will not be ready for occupancy by January 1st. The cost of that large building, by the way, will be defrayed from the earnings of the hired convicts and the tax-payers will not be directly assessed for it. But how long it would take for the convicts making goods for sale to earn enough profit to put up another institution like it, is a matter that nobody could prophesy about.

As the convict question stands today, the big building for the penitentiary is uncompleted. The Legislature, by its previous action, has made it mandatory upon the State officials to stop hiring out the convicts and employ them in some other manner. This will automatically deprive the State of a revenue, which, in good years, amounts to a million dollars. It is not even certain that under the new system the convicts will be self-supporting. This is seriously doubted. Informed men say that it is extremely probable that the tax-payers will be assessed for the support of the convicts, instead of the able-bodied convicts not only supporting themselves, but contributing to the treasury. We recall when the hiring system was under consideration at the first session some people of good intent, asked indignantly, "Would you have the State make money out of the convicts?" Why not? There is nothing revolting in the thought that an able-bodied criminal should support himself and actually do what he has never done before, contribute to the State treasury. We would far rather see the convicts earning money

for the State by their labor, than to compel honest and law-abiding tax-payers to labor still harder for money to support the convicts in idleness.

The Convict Department through Representative Dansby has, in a House Bill, requested authority to continue the present hiring system until the new penitentiary could be completed. This is the least the Legislature can do. A refusal would be inexplicable and a refusal would greatly jam the business of the State. Representative Long, of Butler, has gone still farther and introduced a bill to repeal the repeal of the hiring system. The Long bill would have the effect of allowing county officials to continue their authority over county convicts and to assure the continuation of the hiring system.

The House Committee on Penitentiaries occasioned some surprise by preferring the Long bill over the Dansby bill and recommending its passage. The House members, it develops, have come to consider more seriously the financial affairs of the State than they did at the first session, when they voted to abolish a million-dollar contribution to the State treasury.

YOUNG PRISONERS

Montgomery Advertiser
ARE IN MAJORITY
283 From 21 to 25 Years While
Only 16 of State's Convicts
Are Over 65
1/1/21

According to figures compiled in the office of the state warden general, 1,106 convicts were sentenced to terms in the penitentiary in Alabama during the fiscal year ending September 30, 1921. Of this number, 283 were between the ages of 21 and 25 years. Two hundred and twenty were between the ages of 16 and 20 years, while 16 were more than 66 years old.

A list showing the number of prisoners sentenced during the fiscal year, ending September 30, 1921, divided into classes in accordance with their age at the time of conviction, follows:

16 to 20 years	220
21 to 25 years	283
26 to 30 years	167
31 to 35 years	105
36 to 40 years	97
41 to 45 years	64
46 to 50 years	80
51 to 55 years	46
56 to 60 years	17
61 to 65 years	11
66 and over	16

PROHIBIT SENTENCES

IN ALABAMA LEAD

Montgomery
348 Prohib Sentences Out of 1,106

Prison Sentences Past

Year in State

Advertiser

More persons went to prison in Alabama for violating the prohibition law than for any other offense during the fiscal year which ended September 30, 1921, records on file in the state warden general's office show. Of the total of 1,106 prisoners received in the penitentiary, 348 were convicted for violation of the prohibition law of the state.

A total of 186 were convicted of grand larceny, 185 for burglary, 69 for murder in the second degree, 63 for manslaughter in the first degree, 54 for assault to murder, and 50 for forgery.

The offenses for which the 1,106 prisoners were sent to the penitentiary, and the number received at the penitentiary for each offense, follow:

Arson, first degree	2
Arson, second degree	3
Assault to murder by poisoning	1
Assault to ravish	8
Assault to rob	5
Assault to murder and larceny	1
Assault to murder	54
Aiding prisoner to escape	1
Burglary of railroad car	1
Bigamy	6
Burglary	185
Buying, receiving or concealing stolen property	5
Carnal knowledge	7
Embezzlement	4
Forgery	50
False pretense	13
Grand larceny	186
Larceny from person	3
Incest	6
Manslaughter, first degree	63
Murder, first degree	43
Murder, second degree	69
Placing obstruction on railroad track	1
Perjury	1
Rape	4
Robbery	29
Seduction	5
Selling mortgaged property ..	2
Violating prohibition law	348
Total	1,106

MONTGOMERY AND THE CONVICT INDUSTRIES.

The Advertiser commends the wisdom of Governor Kilby and Warden-General Feagin, of the Convict Department, in taking the bold step of consolidating the prison facilities for the State and establishing them near the outskirts of Montgomery, in preparation for a sweeping change to be made the first of January, 1923, when the abolition of the convict lease system takes effect.

The State has secured, under most reasonable terms, an ideal location for its prison activities. The property in question is a part of the site of Camp Sheridan, a site pierced by two railroads, the Western and the Seaboard, and a little more than three miles from the heart of the city of Montgomery. It is a high and healthy location, and it is convenient to an ample supply of water and electricity. Above all else, however, it is under the eyes of the State officials who will be charged with the administration of the new convict system, which will demand far more from the representatives of the States in the future than it has in the past. Moreover, not only is the State government and its central authority lodged in Montgomery, but the city is the natural center of the State. It is peculiarly equipped with railroads to serve a great business industry, as the new convict system will be.

The State in the past has been somewhat unfortunate in its business investments for the Convict Department; this is not said with any purpose to criticize past officials of the Convict Department; above all it is not intended to criticize convict officials, who had nothing to do with the investments made by the State, but who had to struggle along with business conditions as they found them. In the light of experience, it must be admitted that several investments made many years ago in permanent property for the Convict Department, were unwise and unprofitable.

Nearly twenty years ago Governor Jelks, pursuing an intelligent business policy, pointed out some of these mistakes and urged that certain property for the use of the Convict Department be sold and

change made in the system of supervising the convicts and administering the convict property. The Legislature was impressed by his recommendations and approved proposed sales, but the opportunity for the favorable sale of such property did not present itself and the present lease system, profitable to the State and beneficial to the convicts, notwithstanding what has been said of it, was instituted before the sales were effected.

The last Legislature, after many years of agitation in Alabama, determined upon the abolition of the so-called lease system, under which convicts had been worked by the State in privately owned mines. It is of no avail to argue now as to the wisdom or unwisdom of the change; it is now an accomplished fact. Until now and since the Jelks administration the Convict Department has been the source of a considerable revenue to the State. In years previous to this system the department had turned up with a deficit; but since the so-called lease system has been inaugurated the department has returned into the State Treasury a substantial profit.

That profit will disappear when the new system goes into effect on January 1st, 1923. Unless the officials of the State plan well and wisely, not only will the State convicts not bring in a profit, but they will constitute a financial burden, for the tax payers to bear. Of all solutions of the problem of caring for the convicts, none is so wrong or so reprehensible as a system which will make the tax payers support criminals in absolute idleness.

A few years ago we witnessed a wide-spread agitation for the working of convicts on the public roads. Georgia committed herself to that solution of the question. Many counties in Alabama—all counties have had the right to work their convicts on the road—turned to this plan. But that plan has failed, and its failure can not be denied. Counties which adopted it have abandoned it and the bankrupt condition of the Georgia treasury is eloquent

testimony as to the practicability of employing the convicts on the roads.

Wisely looking into the future the officials charged with the administration of the convict system asked themselves this

question, "What can we do with the convicts of the State, to prevent them from being a burden on the tax payers of the State, and to prevent a deficit in the State's funds where we have heretofore had a surplus?" The answer to this question has been on the part of Governor Kilby and Warden-General Feagin, a bold stroke of progress, the consolidation of the manufacturing business and industrial interests of the State, in a centrally located place, with all the necessary conveniences at hand, under the direct observation of the men charged with the administration of the department.

Just what the group of buildings and industries will be on the Upper Wetumpka Road, can not be said at this time. The State officials of themselves can hardly have completed all their plans; the plans must continue to develop as time moves on. It is said that the first investment will be in the neighborhood of half a million dollars—a statement which seems altogether probable. What is more significant, however, to the tax payers throughout the State, is the true announcement, that no tax money will be taken from the treasury to make the change or erect the buildings. All this will be done from the profits of the department which are now in sight. The real purpose of the new plan of consolidation is to take care in advance that the treasury shall not be levied upon to pay the deficit, which, unless wise plans are adopted, would inevitably ensue when the Convict Department ceases to be a money-making agency and becomes a money-losing agency.

The State has made a good trade with the city. The admirable site selected by the War Department for the training camp of a division in the American army ceased to become remunerative in any way after the soldiers left for France. The city, to get the camp here, bought that site for the benefit of the government. It was valuable property; it jutted on the city limits of Montgomery. But it did not bring in any money. It was made up of good farming land, but after the soldiers had lived on it cut it up and used it, it was no longer good for even farming land. The city government wisely met the State half way

in a trade and, while getting not as much as it paid for the land, got a moderate price for a considerable portion of old Camp Sheridan. The negotiations were undertaken with the convictions that the centralization of the activities of the Convict Department in Montgomery would redound to the material benefits of the city. The Advertiser shares this conviction.

We are convinced that the city will be materially benefitted by the building activities, the establishment of a series of convict enterprises, and the centering of all convict industries in Montgomery. The business men of Montgomery seem to be heartily of the same opinion. Nor do we believe that the establishment of these interests and industries will in any way lower the moral tone of the city, or its record for freedom from crimes of violence. We see no reason to believe that the location of a big enterprise of this character will affect in any way the law-abiding standards of the city.

We suspect that the citizens of Chisholm are unduly alarmed over the erection of a prison, more than a mile from that suburban community. The growing and beautiful community of Dalraida will be much nearer the institution, and Capitol Heights, another beautiful suburb, will not only be nearer, but, it will be on the direct line of communication between Montgomery and the institution. Apprehension, expressed in the Chisholm mass meeting, will prove to be groundless, and we do not take any stock in the argument of a few Montgomery people, a very few, that the institution may ultimately affect the orderly and even life of the city of Montgomery. We believe that in the establishment of the prison a forward step has been taken and that far-sighted business men should not hesitate to say so.

PRISON INSPECTOR FILES REPORT OF STATE INSTITUTIONS FOR 1920

Montgomery Advertiser
Report Shows Commitments For Past Fiscal Year Outnumber
Preceding Year; State Spends \$97,786.90 Feed-
ing Prisoners For Same Period
2/13/21

CRIME DECREASES HERE IN FEBRUARY

Report of Police Department
Shows Liquor Violations Head
List For Month 2/9/21
Montgomery Advertiser

An exceptionally good showing was made by the Montgomery Police Department for the month of February, as shown in the monthly report of Bert S. Fitzpatrick, secretary to Chief W. H. Taylor. Although there were 410 arrests made there was a considerable shortage of crime in the city as quite a large number of these arrests were for minor offenses.

A review of the more important criminal cases shows that a comparatively small number existed. There were only three arrests made for murder, three for burglary and larceny, one for assault to murder, three for forgery, and five for embezzlement.

Much activity is shown in the enforcement of the prohibition laws and during the month 288 cases were docketed on this charge. This is the result of a campaign staged by the department with the determination of breaking up liquor traffic in this city.

Of the 410 arrests, 164 were white persons and 246 negroes; 146 of these white people were men and 18 women, 208 negro men and 38 women; 189 were married persons and 221 single.

The day in the week on which most of these arrests were made was Sunday, an average of 73 being credited on this day. Tuesday came next with 65, Monday 63, Saturday 61, Friday 60, Wednesday 47, and Tuesday 41.

There were six different countries represented among the persons arrested; 400 of these were citizens of the United States, one of Germany, two of Greece, one of Poland, three of Russia, and three of Turkey.

The occupations of the people arrested cover a wide scope of endeavor and in the number are, sailors, soldiers, chorus girls, Rabbis, students and many others.

Of the cases made the following disposition was made of them in the Recorder's Court by Judge William R. Brassell: 169 were fined, 54 dismissed, 13 bound over, 15 appealed, 6 continued, 48 discharged and 23 not pressed. The amount of fines assessed by the recorder in these cases was \$3,662.50, of this amount \$2,942 was collected and turned over to the city treasurer, \$10.50 for pound fees and 704 days of labor were furnished

by prisoners.

The report shows good work on the part of the detective force of the department. From the arrests by this branch a total of \$1,830 was brought into the city treasury and the value of property recovered and returned to the rightful owners was \$1,075. The average number of arrests made by each detective was 14.

PRISON REPORT SHOWS OVER 2,000 CONVICTS CONFINED IN ALABAMA

Advertiser 4/20/21
There were on Tuesday, April 19, 1921, a total of 2,609 convicts confined at the state's various prisons and prison camps, or some 300 more than on the same date in 1920, according to State Warden General William F. Feagin. Of the 2,609 prisoners, 660 are white persons and 1,949 are negroes. A total of 118 of the prisoners are women, eight of whom are white and the remainder negroes.

Warden General Feagin stated, the prisoners are divided among the prisons and prison camps as follows:

Aldrich 324; Banner 416; Belle Ellen 251; Flat Top 471; Prison Farm No. 4 98; River Falls, 170; Speigner 525; and Wetumpka, 275.

In addition to these there are 13 convicts employed as "trustees" at the state capitol.

FEAGIN ISSUES BOOK REGARDING CONVICTS

A booklet containing the names, descriptions, and in practically all cases, the photographs of 88 convicts who escaped from the state's various prisons and prison camps during the years 1919 and 1920, has just been issued by Warden General William F. Feagin. This booklet also contains information concerning the crime for which each of the escapes listed were convicted, and the county in which their offense was committed.

Copies will be mailed to officers of the law throughout the country, so that they may be on the lookout for the "wanted" men. Of the convicts listed 39 are white men and 49 negro men.

BUTLER NEGROES ARE HELD IN JAIL

Negroes Charged With Attempt
to Murder Mrs. Moore, Unable
to Make Bond 6/23/21
Montgomery Advertiser

GREENVILLE, June 12—Lichten Bogan, Mary McCombs, and Bennie Hartley three negroes being held charged with poisoning Mrs. J. F. Moore wife of a white planter near Greenville were given a preliminary hearing before Judge Stockton today. The negroes were allowed bail, but up to date they have been unable to make it and they are still confined in the Butler county jail with a formal charge of attempt to murder pending against them.

SOVIET RULE DECLARED BY INMATES OF TWO COUNTY JAILS IN ALABAMA

Prison Inspector on Tour of Inspection Finds "Kangaroo"
Disciplinary Measures Existing and Issues Orders
Constitution That Such Be Discontinued 5/15/21

Enforcement by prisoners of their set of prison rules upon those not conforming to them was found to obtain in both the Limestone and Madison county jails in the course of inspections carried out during the month of April, according to a report on these inspections just submitted to Governor Kilby by State Prison Inspector Dr. Glenn Andrews. In each instance, it is announced, the practice was ordered discontinued at once.

The disciplinary method employed by prisoners at the Limestone county jail the report states, was the administering of a certain number of "licks" with a strap to the prisoner disobeying the regulations adopted by the prisoners themselves. It is further stated that this practice had resulted in the Limestone county jail, in one of the prisoners being injured by the bite of another, who was resisting the punishment. At the Madison county jail, it is stated, leather straps, three or four in number, attached to heavy wooden handles were found in the prisoners' possession and were taken and given to the jailor.

It is stated in the report, however, that the Limestone county jail was found in a very satisfactory condition, with the exception of the plumbing which has been giving trouble but will be repaired. The prisoners were well disciplined and seemed contented, no complaint of food or treatment being made. The Madison county jail was found clean, the report says. The bedding and cells were in good condition and the prisoners were clean in appearance and were orderly.

At the Mobile county jail, the inspector reports, general conditions showed some improvement over that of the last inspection, but cells, corridors and hall-ways were unsatisfactory. The attention of those in charge was called to this it is stated and a general cleaning up was inaugurated. It is also stated, that "upon the second day of the inspection, the beds, bedding, floors, cages, etc., were found to be in a very satisfactory condition." There was improvement also in the discipline and cleanliness of the prisoners the inspector states. The waste shown on the food sheet submitted the inspector states, is cooked food, returned from the cells after the prisoners had finished eating. In this same connection, he says: "Poor cooking, excess of some of the articles given combined with monotony, especially for breakfast is largely the reason for this excess. Such excess not only results in wastefulness but indicate a corresponding insufficiency in the nourishments for the prisoner since the food served is not being eaten. The lack of proper cooking facilities adds very materially to the poor quality of the cooking. It is practically impossible to prepare a decent meal on the range now being used in the kitchen." The general condition

of the Mobile county almshouse was found to be satisfactory, the report alleges. The 61 inmates showed good care, kind treatment and are apparently well and happy.

The interior of the Barbour county jail, the inspector reports was found to be infested with vermin, but the jailor stated he was using every effort to get rid of them. It is also stated that the interior of his jail is badly in need of paint. The almshouse premises were found to be generally clean and orderly and the inmates comfortable. All of the ten prisoners confined in the Barbour county jail at the time of the inspection were negroes.

Conditions at Shelby were found to be unsatisfactory, the report states, the building is in need of painting and repairing throughout. It is declared, and at the time of the inspection the plumbing which was in bad condition from a sanitary standpoint needed fixing. "Insufficiency of the water supply," the report says, "makes proper flushing of toilets, etc., impossible, thus creating an almost unbearable condition." All but two of the cells were found dirty, it is stated, while an insufficient number of bunks made it necessary for bedding to be placed on the floor for some of the prisoners. It is also stated that individual soap and towels were not furnished prisoners and that there was a lack of discipline among the inmates. They were in good health, however, and were seemingly cheerful and contented.

The Lawrence county jail, it is reported, was found in a fairly good condition and relatively clean, but the discipline of the white prisoners was bad. Five of them, it is stated, were in a resentful state of mind and were giving those in charge a great deal of trouble but promised to be more obedient in future.

The inspector states that the Colbert county jail was found to be in a very clean and orderly condition and the prisoners well disciplined, clean and neat in appearance. Food was well cooked and served in abundance. Some overcrowding is reported from the Mobile city jail, but the premises were clean. The Crenshaw county jail contained only one prisoner, a negro man whose sole complaint was that he was lonely. The jail as a whole together with the bedding was clean, the inspector states.

Crime - 1921. CRIMINAL COURT SENTENCES

IMPOSED FRIDAY AGGREGATE OVER 23 YEARS FOR MINOR CASES

With the imposing of sentences upon fourteen persons Friday afternoon convicted during the past week in the Montgomery County Circuit Court the work of that court for the week was cleared up by Judge Leon McCord. Of the fourteen sentences imposed nine of them were for hard labor for the county as follows:

Major Burks, grand larceny, two years hard labor and 111 days cost of court.

Will Cash, violating prohibition laws, three months hard labor, 132 days cost.

Willie Edwards, grand larceny, 18 months, 74 days cost.

Henry Jackson grand larceny, 18 months, 71 days, cost.

Levy Moore, grand larceny, 2 years 78 days cost.

Clayton Thomas, grand larceny, 1 year, 69 days cost.

Charlie Pierce and Bennie Warren, burglary and grand larceny 18 months, 34 days cost each.

Jessie Ellington, concealed weapon, 6 months, 78 days, hard labor for the county. In addition to this sentence he was given an indeterminate sentence of from 3 to 4 years in the state penitentiary for burglary and grand larceny.

Leroy Echols on two occasions of petit larceny was given 6 months and 57 days in the first case and 10 days and 42 days in the 2nd. Besides these two sentences he was given an indeterminate sentence of from three to four years in the state penitentiary for burglary and grand larceny and a like sentence for grand larceny.

Those sentenced to the state penitentiary were:

James Henderson, grand larceny, indeterminate sentence of from 1 year to 1 year and 1 month.

Annie Lee Turks, grand larceny, from 1 to 2 years.

Dick Loraine, white man, forgery in the second degree, 2 years to two years and two months.

W. A. Patrick, charged with grand larceny for having ordered some fish from a local market, asking for change for \$20 and later receiving the money and not giving the porter the money for the fish was given a sentence of from 18 months to 2 years.

Friday morning the court was busy hearing a number of cases as follows:

Henry Barlow, manufacturing prohibitive liquor, pleaded guilty; Dick Loraine forgery, pleaded guilty; Levy Moore, grand larceny, jury and verdict of guilty; W. A. Patrick, grand larceny, pleaded guilty; Charlie Pierce and Bennie Warren, burglary and grand larceny pleaded guilty; Clayton Thomas and Annie Lee Turks grand larceny, pleaded guilty.

A case against John Smith for grand larceny was not prossed.

The court was recessed until Monday morning at 10 o'clock at which time the hearing of the criminal docket will be resumed.

STATE PRISON INSPECTOR FINDS MANY INSTITUTIONS IN BAD ORDER Very Unsatisfactory Conditions Found in Almshouses and Jails Over State by Dr. Glenn Andrews on Recent Inspection Trips; Improvements Suggested

Dr. Glenn Andrews, state prison inspector, in a series of reports submitted to Governor Thomas E. Kilby on inspections of a number of county jails and almshouses in Alabama, states that conditions in the Tallapoosa county almshouse are pathetic in the extreme. Of this institution Dr. Andrews says: "Six inmates, 5 white women and one negro woman, housed in a detached and dilapidated building, virtually under the care of a negro man with a maintenance fund insufficient to provide the necessities, is the situation." The negro man referred to, the report states, was formerly an inmate of the almshouse and is now an employee of the keeper. To the negro's credit, Dr. Andrews says, "the place is remarkably clean, plenty of wood is provided, and a good garden and potato patch are well advanced, showing he is constantly on his job." He adds that the per capita of \$11.25 paid the keeper for care of the inmates is inadequate.

Upon the occasion of his visit to the Tallapoosa county jail, the inspector states there was some disorder in the cells and some bedding was soiled though part of it was fresh and clean. He also states the building needs painting and repairing.

Regarding the Tuscaloosa city jail, the inspector states this jail in point of location and construction is highly unsatisfactory, that it is dark and damp and does not meet the requirements of proper ventilation and sunshine, due to surrounding buildings. He recommends that a better arrangement is necessary.

The Clay County jail when inspected, the report states, needed cleaning, repairing and painting the bedding

was soiled, cells disordered and the condition showed a continual neglect in cleaning, also that the plumbing was in bad condition. The male prisoners, it is stated, were denied bathing facilities because of the insecurity of the jail, and some of the prisoners stated they had not had a bath in several weeks. The county almshouse was found to be clean with the inmates well provided for, comfortable, and seemingly happy and contented.

A report on the Selma city jail, states at the time of the inspection it was in fair condition, but the kitchen is declared insanitary and a change is recommended, also better and more varied food for the prisoners.

In a report on the Dallas county jail

the inspector states it was clean and orderly when visited, and that the jail as a whole is cleaner and in a more satisfactory condition than for a number of years.

Very unsatisfactory conditions were found to obtain in the Chambers county jail at the time of the last inspection it is stated. One white man and one negro man were confined in the jail at the time, it is stated. The negro's cell is described as filthy, and it is stated that though the white man had made an effort to clean his cell, the apartment was filled with books, papers, stale food, soiled bedding, etc. The kitchen was not clean, and was swarming with flies, the report states, while cooked and uncooked food was exposed to flies, rats and other contaminating influences, and the food served prisoners was poorly cooked. The jail is said to be much in need of repairs.

The Randolph county jail, the inspector says was found to be clean and orderly while at the almshouse the management was apparently satisfactory.

A report on the Tuscaloosa county jail states it was found to be in a very sanitary condition, but that it needs painting. The building at the Tuscaloosa county almshouse, was found to be clean and the beds comfortable, the negro quarters however, the report continues were overcrowded at the time of the inspection and not satisfactory. It is recommended that the kitchen and dining room be screened and repaired.

Reporting on conditions as he found them at Convict Camps Nos. 1 and 2 the inspector says conditions at Camp No. 1, were very unsatisfactory, that the kitchen was an open tent and the sleeping quarters and bedding were in need of washing. Camp No. 2 was in about the same condition, it is stated in point of insanitation as Camp No. 1. Here, the inspector says, he found that several convicts were chained by the ankle to their bunks at night, but that this was only done when escape was feared.

Alabama.

STREET CAR OPERATOR SHOT AND ROBBED BY 3 NEGROES

S. Stevens, in Charge of "One Man" Car, Has Bullet Fired in Back and Pockets Rifled; Not Expected to Live; Negroes Make Escape Through Window; Police Search For Assailants.

S. Stevens, operator of a Pickett Spring street car, was shot in the back and robbed of his entire day's collections by three negroes shortly before midnight Monday. Stevens is not expected to live.

The three negroes boarded the "one man car" in Chisholm and soon after it passed the city stables coming to Montgomery one of them fired a bullet into the operator's back. Stevens' pockets were then rifled and the negroes jumped out of a window making their escape.

The mechanical make up of the car caused it to stop as soon as the operator moved his hand from the controller when he was shot and the assailants took advantage of their only means of exit, through a window.

The shot attracted the watchman at the city lot who after finding Stevens lying on the front platform of the car in a semi-conscious condition notified the police authorities and the night superintendent at the street car barn. Stevens was hurried to Hill's infirmary where every possible medical attention is being given him although little hope is held out for his recovery.

Stevens was able to give but few of the details of the attack and officials of the street car company declared early this morning that the exact amount stolen would not be known until the receipts of the car for the day are checked up, although it is known to be more than \$25.

One of the negroes was tall and the other two short and chunky. All three were black and had on old faded blue overalls and jumper.

A squad of police headed by Captain Troy Murrell rushed to the scene of the accident as soon as notice was given and every possible effort is being made to locate the three negroes from the little description Mr. Stevens was able to give. At two o'clock this morning the police were scouring the woods in the vicinity of the attack.

Opinion Holds That Justice of Peace Can Issue Criminal and Search Warrants Outside His Jurisdiction in Any Part of State
Adm. Mont. Adm. Adm.
Justices of the peace in Alabama have the right and authority under the law to issue search warrants

and criminal warrants for service not only outside the confines of the precinct in which the issuing justice of the peace has jurisdiction, but in any part of the State according to an opinion rendered Monday, by Assistant Attorney General Lamar Field. The assistant attorney general quoted from decisions rendered by the Alabama Supreme Court in support of his holding.

The opinion rendered by Assistant Attorney General Field was rendered upon the request of Conrad W. Austin, chief of the state law enforcement department, and was delivered to him Monday afternoon. In making application for a legal opinion regarding the jurisdiction of justices of the peace, Chief Austin stated Monday that he had done so upon the request of S. E. Gunn, Justice of the Peace of Montgomery, and J. G. Bowen, notary public and ex-officio Justice of the Peace, of Mobile.

In the same opinion in which he construed the law in its application to the powers and jurisdiction of justices of the peace in issuing search warrants and criminal warrants, Assistant Attorney General Field held that in the issuing of civil warrants, justices of the peace have no jurisdiction outside the limits of their respective precincts.

CONVICTS CHARGE
THEY ARE TREATED
WORSE THAN DOGS

Birmingham, Ala., July 20.—Solicitor Joseph R. Tate announced today following a complaint received from state convicts at Rosedale, that they were "being treated worse than dogs," that he would at once institute a rigid investigation.

The convicts complained that they were frequently assaulted by guards without provocation, and forbidden to show their wounds to camp doctors.

The complaint which was filed in writing, adds:

"The guards cock their guns at us, threaten our lives and hit us with their pistols."

The convicts charge that they are not sufficiently fed and that they are "at the mercy of flunkies of the camp."

SIXTEEN COUNTY JAILS FOUND GOOD WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS

Bessemer City Prison Is in Better Condition Since Recommendations of State Inspector Have Been Carried Out

Reports on the condition of sixteen county jails in Alabama in addition to a number of almshouses, which reports have just been filed with Governor Thomas E. Kilby by Dr. Glenn Andrews, state prison inspector, show that the institutions are in fairly good condition with a few exceptions. Even in these exceptional cases, the inspector's criticisms are relatively mild, however.

A summary of Dr. Andrews' reports on the sixteen institutions visited, shows the following:

Lee county jail: Lower floor painted and jail clean with the exception of the quarters for negroes, where the plumbing is said to have been found out of order while an accumulation of left over food added to the disorder and insanitation. Floor drain in apartment for white men also said to be out of order. Bedding found clean; food ample and well cooked. Almshouse: Program of improvement going forward with much accomplishment, and when completed will be highly satisfactory.

Chambers county jail: Recently painted and cleaned throughout and in a much more satisfactory condition than on last inspection. Report states however, that there is a lack of system in keeping ration sheets and that the feeding is done on a guess work basis. Inspector states also that cooking was inferior and service unsatisfactory.

Perry county jail: Clean and orderly; no complaints from prisoners, but the inspector states the building does not conform to the requirements of law in a number of respects and stands condemned. At the almshouse, the inspector says he noted that most of the beds were old and without springs, and "the mattresses old, very inferior and uncomfortable", but he adds that with this exception, conditions were fairly satisfactory.

Talladega county jail: Building clean; prisoners neat and well disciplined, but repair work needed on some of the cells. Meals well cooked and ample but kitchen extremely hot and needs ventilation. Almshouse: Marked improvement noted since last inspection, and when improvements are completed, institution will be very satisfactory.

Tallapoosa county jail: Building has been painted and much improved since last inspection. Dr. Andrews states however that, "The bedding was soiled on several bunks and the negro prisoners in need of clean clothing and proper bathing". The jail, he states was quite clean. The report continues: "Fourteen prisoners were in the jail, one a negro boy 12 or 14 years of age, is confined with adult prisoners, and another white man, formerly an inmate of the Bryce Hospital, said to have escaped from there on June 7, 1921, and arrested for attempting to shoot his brother about a week before the date of this inspection, was confined in the same cell with another prisoner". Food well cooked, neatly served and

seemingly ample. The inspector states he was prevented by heavy rains from visiting the almshouse.

Shelby county jail: Interior recently painted, kitchen screened and plumbing put in good condition, "though no painting, which is badly needed has been done in the kitchen". The jail, it is stated, was clean and the prisoners neat and well disciplined, as well as seemingly contented. Dinner well cooked and ample. Almshouse: The conditions here the inspector says, were found in many ways to be unsatisfactory. In this connection it is stated in the report that: "The premises show great neglect. Weeds, undergrowth, broken trees, an accumulation of debris and a lack of care generally were in evidence. The screens to the houses are broken, and an absence of proper supervision of the rooms of the inmates was apparent. The buildings are leaking and all of them are in need of repair". These conditions, it is stated, the court of county commissioners promised to remedy at once.

Choctaw county jail: Clean and orderly, prisoners in good health with no complaints as to their food or treatment.

Clay county jail: Great improvement noted since last inspection, with bedding and cells clean and prisoners neat and well disciplined.

Covington county jail: At time of inspection building was being painted and necessary repairs made, which when completed will put the jail in splendid condition and render it easily kept. The almshouse, the inspector states "is being kept about as satisfactory as the present buildings and system, which is in vogue, will permit of".

Randolph county jail: Found thoroughly clean. Steel structure on interior needs painting however, and repairing also needed in kitchen. Almshouse. Clean, and conditions "as satisfactory as possible with the equipment furnished".

Sumter county jail: Clean and orderly though interior needed painting. Almshouse: General repairs needed, also new beds and bedding.

Dallas county jail: Clean and orderly, with no complaint from the prisoners as to their treatment or food.

Greene county jail: Some repairs needed to steam heating system but jail orderly and clean.

Jefferson county sub-jail, located at Bessemer: Clean and orderly throughout. Prisoners well cared for an expressed themselves as being satisfied with their treatment.

Marengo county jail: No complaints from prisoners as to treatment accorded them, and jail found orderly and clean.

Bessemer City jail: Recommendations recently made regarding the painting of the interior of the building, renovating and bedding and otherwise placing the building in better sanitary condition, have been carried out, the inspector states. He adds that: "The jail was in order and in decidedly the most satisfactory condition that I have ever seen it".

2,701 CONVICTS IN PRISONS OF ALABAMA

Steady Increase During Spring
Terms of Courts in State
Shown in Report

Records in the office of the state warden general show that there are now a total of 2,701 convicts in the various state prisons and prison camps throughout Alabama. Of this number 713 are white men, seven white women, 1,859 negro men and 122 negro women. In March, 1916, the number of convicts in the state prisons reached its highest peak in history at 3,269.

In April 1919 the number of convicts decreased to only 2,188, but since that time a steady increase has been apparent, the highest point in any single day being reached during the past month, when 2,707 prisoners were reported confined in the various state penal institutions. In August 1920 the number of convicts was 2,310, the increase for the year being almost 400.

The following table shows where the 2,701 convicts are now confined:

	Male		Female	
	White-Negroes	White-Negroes	White-Negroes	White-Negroes
Aldrich	72	262	0	2
Banner	60	364	0	2
Bell Ellen	0	303	0	2
Flat Top	154	333	0	0
Kilby	85	89	0	0
No. Four	30	73	0	1
River Falls	55	119	0	4
Speigner	174	131	7	108
Wetumpka				
(T.B.)	12	35	0	3
(Non)	70	132	0	0
Capitol	0	13	0	0
In Transit	1	5	0	0
Totals	713	1859	7	122

EXECUTION DATE FOR TWO NEGROES IS SET

John Henry Barnett and Willie Williams Will Hang in

December
16/30/21

Friday, December 2, is the date set by Judge Leon McCord in Circuit Court, for the execution of John Henry Barnett and Willie Williams, two negroes, convicted of murder of Davis Anderson October 6. The execution will take place in the county jail, it was stated. Judge McCord fixed the date when sentences were imposed in court at noon Saturday.

Lorenzo Brown and Victor Williams, negroes who were convicted of robbery, were given a life sentence in the penitentiary; Sam McDade, negro, convicted of murder, was also given life sentence in the penitentiary. Robert Warren,

negro, convicted of murder, was given penitentiary sentence of 25 years.

Others sentenced Saturday were: Aaron Wheeler, negro, convicted of manslaughter in the first degree, sentenced to 18 months in the penitentiary; Mattie Lou Williams, negro, convicted of manslaughter in the first degree, sentenced to two years in the penitentiary; Kate Sullivan, negro, convicted of petit larceny, sentenced to three months and 42 days. Lizzie Moore, negro, convicted of assault and battery, sentenced to 135 days; Jim Adams, negro, convicted of violating the prohibition law, sentenced to 93 days hard labor.

Mrs. Anita Cabel's motion for a new trial was passed until next Wednesday by Judge Walter B. Jones. Mrs. Cabel was convicted of assault and battery, having been charged with throwing carbolic acid on Mrs. W. D. Loftin. Two other matters were also passed until Wednesday for disposition.